United Nations S/2010/421

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 August 2010

Original: English

Note verbale dated 4 August 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to transmit a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation dated 29 July 2010 on the twelfth round of Geneva discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations would be grateful if the present note verbale and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

10-47548 (E) 050810 050810

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 4 August 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and Russian]

Press release

Twelfth round of Geneva discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia

29 July 2010

Within the framework of the international discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia, the twelfth meeting was held in Geneva on 27 July. It was attended by delegations from the Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, the Russian Federation, the United States and the Republic of South Ossetia, as well as by representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Alexey Dvinyanin, Deputy Director of the fourth CIS Department of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed the Russian delegation.

The Group on Security exchanged views on the current situation on the borders of Abkhazia and South Ossetia with Georgia, discussed further the issue of the non-use of force in Transcaucasia, and considered possible directions for further work on measures to restore confidence in the region.

There was noted the desirability of continuing the activity of the incident prevention and response mechanisms in the area of the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-South Ossetian borders on a regular basis, including the use of the established lines of operational communication. The delegations of Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Russia stressed the urgent need to achieve a document legally enshrining the principle of non-use of force by Georgia against Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The meeting of the Humanitarian Group continued discussion on ways to resolve the problem of refugees and displaced persons. United Nations experts briefed its participants on the international standards in determining the basic principles to restore the property rights of these categories of citizens. The Russian side stressed the need for putting maximum priority on creating the proper conditions for the return of refugees to safe areas.

This latest round of Geneva discussions has again shown that Georgia's stance continues to be unconstructive and exhibits a stubborn reluctance to seek practical ways leading to the consolidation of peace and security in the region. In this context one should also view the draft submitted the other day by Georgia of a United Nations General Assembly resolution on the status of refugees and internally displaced persons in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This demonstrative action of Tbilisi had an adverse effect on the meeting's atmosphere (primarily in the Humanitarian Group) and obviously does not contribute to the overall normalization of the situation in Transcaucasia.

The next meeting in Geneva is tentatively scheduled for 14 October 2010.